

Inscription on Ellis Island

The Statue of Liberty, a resplendent beacon in New York Harbor, carries a timeless inscription that has welcomed millions to American shores. The sonnet "The New Colossus," penned by Emma Lazarus in 1883, was cast onto a bronze plaque and mounted inside the statue's pedestal. Its words offer a powerful message of hope and freedom, declaring the statue as the "Mother of Exiles" and inviting the "tired," "poor," and "huddled masses yearning to breathe free" to find refuge. This poem has become an emblem of the nation's ethos, symbolizing the United States' long-standing tradition as a sanctuary for those seeking a new beginning. Indeed, the Statue of Liberty stands not only as a monument to liberty but also as a motherly figure that lights the way to opportunity and acceptance for the "homeless, tempest-tost" who arrive at its feet. The inscription's enduring words echo the nation's commitment to being a land of opportunity and freedom, a sentiment that continues to resonate with people all over the world. The plaque with Lazarus's sonnet is currently displayed in the Statue of Liberty Museum, serving as a poignant reminder of America's heritage as a melting pot of cultures and a beacon of hope for immigrants. The legacy of the inscription on Ellis Island is a testament to the enduring ideals of liberty and the pursuit of happiness that are foundational to the American dream.